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(54) Title: HCV REPLICONS CONTAINING NSSB FROM GENOTYPE 2B

SMSYZ¹WTGALITPCGP EEEKLP I X¹PLSNSL X²RFHNKVYSTTSRSASLR AKKVT FDRVQV
LDAHYDSVLQDVKRAASKVSARLLTVEEACALTPPHSAKSRYGFGAKEVRSLSRRVNHIR
SVWEDLLEDQHTPIDTTIMAKNEVFCIDPTKGGKKPARLIVYPDLGVRVCEKMALYDIAQK
LPKAIMGPSYGFQYSPAERVDFLLKAWGSKKDPMGFSYDTRCFDSTVTERDIRTEESIYQA
CSLPQEARTVIHSLTERLYVGGPMTNSKGQSCGYRRCRASGVFTTSMGNTMTCYIKALAAC
KAAGIVDPVMLVCGDDLVI SE SQNEEDERNLRAFTEAMTRY SAPP GDLPRPEYDLELIT
SCSSNVSVALDSRGRRRYFLTRDPTTP X³TRAAWETVRHSPVNSWLGNI IQYAPT IWVRMVI
MTHFFSILLAQDTLNQNLNFEMYGAVYSVNPLDLPATIERLHGLEAFSLHTYSPHEL SRVA
ATLRKLGAPPLRAWKSRARAVRASLIAQGARAAICGRYLFNWA VKTKLKLTPLEASRLDL
SGWFTVGAGGGDIYHSVSHARPRLLLLCLLLLSVGVGIFLLPDR

(57) Abstract: The present invention features methods for enhancing the ability of a genotype 2b NS5B sequence to function in a replicon, for producing replicons containing a functional genotype 2b NS5B, and for using replicons to measure the ability of a compound to affect HCV replication that is sustained with the genotype 2b polymerase. Also featured is a genotype 1b NS4B adaptive mutation. The ability to produce replicons containing a functional genotype 2b NS5B is illustrated by the production of chimeric replicons based on HCV genotype 1b where substantially all the NS5B sequence is replaced with a genotype 2b NS5B.

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